UNITED NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.5/1993/1
29 December 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
Thirty-third session
Vienna, 8-17 February 1993
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Provisional agenda

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2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

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5. Priority subject:

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6. Programme questions and other matters:

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   (c) United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.

7. World Summit for Social Development.

8. Provisional agenda for the thirty-fourth session of the Commission.

9. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-third session.

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council stipulates that, at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the Commission shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman, one or more Vice-Chairmen and such other officers as may be required.

At past sessions, the Commission has elected a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure requires that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, after the election of its officers, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

3. Review of the world social situation

The Commission will review emerging trends and issues of global concern, giving particular attention to social policy and programme implications. Emphasis will be placed on the review of new approaches and methods for the solution of problems based, inter alia, on recent national experience.

The Commission has before it the 1993 report on the world social situation. In resolution 45/87, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue monitoring the world social situation in depth on a regular basis and to submit, in accordance with paragraph 10 of its resolution 44/56, an interim report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, and a full report in 1993. At its forty-sixth session, the Assembly recommended that the draft of the 1993 report be reviewed by the Advisory Committee on Coordination (ACC) to ensure that an integrated interdisciplinary focus was given and to provide a source of information for the report (resolution 46/95). An expanded outline of the report was submitted to the ACC Task Force on Long-Term Development Objectives (Geneva, 3-12 March 1992). At its substantive session of 1992, the Council considered the revised draft framework for the 1993 report (E/1992/17). In resolution 1992/26, the Council reaffirmed the request set forth in paragraph 4 of Council resolution 1989/72, in which the Secretary-General was requested, in preparing the 1993 report, to give high priority to an analysis of the main indicators of social progress and standards of living and to make a comprehensive analysis of the main causes and circumstances that explained negative trends in those indicators; chapters devoted to the study of specific social problems were to be related to global economic and social situations, taking into account both national and international conditions. The Council requested the Secretary-General to take account also of the intrinsic relationship between economic growth and social development and to analyse in depth the impact of the economic problems of the developing countries on the world social situation.

In resolution 44/54, the General Assembly invited the Commission for Social Development, in its discussion of the world social situation, to pay increasing attention to the effects of science and technology on the processes of social welfare and development, and requested the Secretary-General, when elaborating the next report on the world social situation, to take due account of the effects of science and technology on processes of social welfare and development on the basis of information available from Governments and from organizations of the United Nations system.

In resolution 44/57 on the implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to include in the 1993 report on the world social situation a special section dealing with the activities carried out in pursuance of the resolution.

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/6, the Commission has before it the report of the Secretary-General on the critical social situation in Africa. The report provides an in-depth evaluation of the situation, including the impact of structural adjustment policies on the social situation in Africa.

Documentation

1993 report on the world social situation (E/1993/50)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development (E/1993/50/Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on the critical social situation in Africa (E/CN.5/1993/11)

4. Monitoring of international plans and programmes of action

The Commission will monitor the implementation of international plans and programmes of action: specifically, the social development goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future, the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth, the International Plan of Action on Ageing, the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992).

The Commission will review concurrently the relevant activities of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in the field of social development, including technical cooperation activities, in particular those relating to developmental social welfare, the cooperative movement, community and local-level action and family issues, as well as activities relating to youth, the ageing and disabled persons. The Commission will receive reports from the regional commissions on their social welfare and social development activities, as well as reports of relevant expert group meetings.

The Commission will also have before it the report of an international expert meeting held at Kellokoshi, Finland, from 20 to 22 September 1992, entitled "Towards a competitive society in Central and Eastern Europe: social dimensions", which is annexed to a note verbale from the Permanent Mission of Finland.

International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade

At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (resolution 45/199, annex).

In its resolution 1991/12, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the views and suggestions contained in the report of the Expert Group on the Social Impact of the Critical Economic Environment on Developing Countries: Strategies for Social Development Cooperation (E/CN.5/1991/5, annex), and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its regular session of 1993, through the Commission, on progress achieved and obstacles encountered in implementing the social development goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, and on the progress made in elaborating the suggestions and recommendations of the Expert Group. The report of the Secretary-General on the subject is before the Commission.

Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future

The Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes, held in September 1987, adopted the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future, which were endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 42/125. The Commission, at its thirty-first session, recommended follow-up activities, which were subsequently endorsed by the Council in resolution 1989/53 and the Assembly in resolution 44/65. The Assembly, in resolution 46/90, reaffirmed the validity of the Guiding Principles and endorsed the recommendations of the Secretary-General for follow-up contained in his report on the subject (A/46/414). It also requested the Secretary-General, inter alia, to report to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session, through the Commission and the Council, on the progress achieved in implementing and following up the Guiding Principles, and resolution 46/90 itself. A report on the subject is before the Commission. Additional information on activities carried out or under way is contained in the relevant section of the report of the Secretary-General on the major issues and programme activities of the United Nations Secretariat and the regional commissions relating to social development and welfare and specific social groups, which is before the Commission.

Implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth

The General Assembly, in resolution 45/103, noting that the year 1995 would mark the tenth anniversary of International Youth Year, called upon all States, all United Nations bodies, in particular the Council through the Commission for Social Development, the specialized agencies, concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and youth organizations to continue to exert all possible efforts for the proper follow-up and implementation of the guidelines.

The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1991/11, decided that an open-ended ad hoc working group of the Commission should be established at the thirty-third session of the Commission to review and appraise progress achieved and obstacles identified in implementing the objectives of the International Youth Year. The open-ended working group will also prepare a draft calendar of activities to mark the tenth anniversary of the Year and a draft world programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond, taking into account regional youth programmes of action. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General containing a draft calendar of activities and a draft world youth programme of action. The report of the Secretary-General on policies and programmes involving youth (A/47/349), which contains information relevant to the review, will be made available to the Commission. Additional information on activities carried out in the field of youth in 1991-1992 is contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the major issues and programme activities of the United Nations Secretariat and the regional commissions relating to social development and welfare and specific social groups, which is before the Commission.

Review of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing

At its thirty-seventh session, the General Assembly endorsed the International Plan of Action on Ageing, adopted by the World Assembly on Ageing, and requested the Economic and Social Council, through the Commission, to review the implementation of the Plan of Action every four years, beginning in 1985, and to transmit its findings to the Assembly (resolution 37/51). The Commission will conduct the third review and appraisal at its thirty-third session, and for this purpose the Assembly requested it to convene an ad hoc informal in-session working group. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the subject.

In resolution 1989/50, the Council adopted a set of priorities and recommerdations to encourage further implementation of the Plan of Action, and endorsed the draft programme of United Nations activities relating to the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Plan of Action. A full account of activities for the anniversary year is set out in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing (A/47/369) which is being made available to the Commission.

In resolution 46/91, the Assembly adopted the United Nations Principles for Older Persons, based on a text recommended by the Council in its resolution 1991/10 and elaborated by the Commission at its thirty-first session, and recommended that the United Nations define targets on ageing to provide a pragmatic focus for the broad and ideal goals of the International Plan of Action on Ageing. Draft global targets on ageing for the year 2001 are set out in the report of the Secretary-General on the subject (A/47/339), which is being made available to the Commission.

Additional information regarding the action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond is contained in the relevant section of the report of the Secretary-General on the major issues and programme activities of the United Nations Secretariat and the regional commissions relating to social development and welfare and specific social groups, which is before the Commission.

Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons

In resolution 1990/26, the Economic and Social Council authorized the Commission to consider, at its thirty-second session, the establishment of an ad hoc open-ended working group of government experts, funded by voluntary contributions, to elaborate standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled children, youth and adults, in close collaboration with the specialized agencies, other intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations, especially organizations of disabled persons. The Council further requested the Commission, should it establish such a working group, to finalize the text of those rules for consideration by the Council at its first regular session of 1993 and for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

Accordingly, in resolution 32/2, the Commission decided to establish such an ad hoc open-ended working group, which was to complete its work in a maximum of three sessions. The final report of the Working Group, which contains the draft Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Disabled Persons, is before the Commission.

The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1991/9, recommended that a meeting of experts, to be funded by voluntary contributions, be held in conjunction with the conference entitled "Independence 1992", to be organized in Canada by the British Columbia Pavilion Corporation, in cooperation with Disabled People's International and other interested non-governmental organizations, with the primary objective of drawing up a long-term strategy to implement the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons to the Year 2000 and beyond, and requested the Commission as its thirty-third session to discuss a long-term strategy to further the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons beyond the Decade. The report of the meeting of experts is before the Commission to assist it in making its suggestions and recommendations regarding a long-term strategy.

In resolution 1991/8, the Economic and Social Council, having considered the Guidelines for the Establishment and Development of National Coordinating Committees on Disability or Similar Bodies, requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its thirty-third session on the implementation of the resolution. The relevant information is contained in the corresponding sections of the report of the Secretary-General on the major issues and programme activities of the United Nations Secretariat and the regional commissions relating to social development and welfare and specific social groups, which is before the Commission.

International Year of the Family

In resolution 44/82, the General Assembly proclaimed 1994 as International Year of the Family, endorsed the main recommendations, objectives and principles for the observance of the Year, as contained in the comprehensive outline of a possible programme for the Year (A/44/407); and designated the Commission for Social Development as the preparatory body and the Economic and Social Commission as the coordinating body for the Year.

In resolution 46/92, the Assembly approved for implementation the proposals made by the Secretary-General in his report entitled "Preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family" (E/CN.5/1991/2), welcomed the establishment by the Secretary-General of the Voluntary Fund for the International Year of the Family and requested the relevant United Nations preparatory and coordinating bodies for the Year to keep preparations for the Year under constant review.

The Assembly also invited the Commission to ensure that all plans, programmes and activities related to the family were in accordance with the concept of equality between women and men as expressed in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and to ensure that the principle relating to policies aimed at fostering equality between women and men, as outlined in annex I to the above-mentioned report (E/CN.5/1991/2), is reflected in the programme of the Year, and requested the Commission to keep the Commission on the Status of Women informed of the preparations for the Year. The Commission for Social Development will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the state of preparations for the Year.

Crime prevention and criminal justice

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/25, the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its first session (E/1992/30) will be made available to the Commission.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on progress achieved and obstacles encountered in implementing the social development goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (E/1993/5)

Report of the Secretary-General on progress achieved in the implementation of and follow-up to the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future (A/48/56-E/1993/6)

Report of the Secretary-General on the major issues and programme activities of the United Nations Secretariat and the regional commissions relating to social development and welfare and specific social groups (E/CN.5/1993/2 and Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on the state of preparations for the International Year of the Family (E/CN.5/1993/3)

Report of the Meeting of Experts on the Subject of a Long-term Strategy to Implement the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons to the Year 2000 and Beyond (E/CN.5/1993/4)

Report of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group to Elaborate Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Disabled Persons (E/CN.5/1993/5)

Report of the Secretary-General on the third review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing (E/CN.5/1993/7)

Report of the Secretary-General containing a draft calendar of activities to mark the tenth anniversary of International Youth Year and a draft world programme of action for youth towards the year 2000 and beyond (E/CN.5/1993/10)

Note verbale dated 29 October 1992 from the Permanent Mission of Finland to the International Organizations at Vienna addressed to the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/1993/12)

5. Priority subject

Social consequences of population growth and changing social conditions, with particular emphasis on the family

The Commission will consider in depth the social consequences of population growth and changing social conditions, with particular emphasis on the family, bearing in mind the various concepts of the family in different political, social and cultural systems. The Commission will consider the conclusions and recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting that was convened

in Vienna from 21 to 25 September 1992 for the purpose of preparing for the in-depth consideration of the priority subject, focusing on policy measures and taking into account the special concerns of the developing countries.

Documentation

Report of the Expert Group Meeting on the Social Consequences of Population Growth and Changing Social Conditions, with Particular Emphasis on the Family (E/CN.5/1993/6)

6. Programme questions and other matters

(a) Programme performance and implementation

At its thirty-second session, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the progress report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the major programme on social development and humanitarian affairs (E/AC.51/1992/2). In the progress report it was proposed (paras. 49-51) that the evaluation should concentrate on activities concerning participation, social integration and welfare, youth, ageing and the disabled. The following issues were to be examined: (a) the effectiveness of strategies aimed at "creating awareness"; (b) the extent to which established international guidelines and norms have been adopted at the national level and utilized as a basis of international cooperation for social development; (c) the factors influencing mobilization of extrabudgetary resources; (d) the views of users of publications, training programmes and other outputs; and (e) the extent to which the programme orientation is integrated and focused.

The Committee endorsed the proposed evaluation methodology (A/47/16 (Part I), para. 129). As recommended in the progress report, draft questionnaires to be used as part of the evaluation will be made available to the members of the Commission for their comments. The questionnaires, incorporating changes resulting from the responses of members of the Commission, will be sent to States members of the Commission, national focal points and non-governmental organizations that have participated in recent sessions of the Commission. The purpose of the questionnaires is to elicit the views of respondents on the issues identified in the progress report.

(b) Proposed programme of work for the biennium 1994-1995

Bearing in mind the new economic and social structures being introduced in the second phase of the reorganization of the Secretariat, as described in the note by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session (A/47/753), the Commission will have before it for consideration the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1994-1995 in the field of social development, which was prepared within the framework of programmes 25 and 26 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised by the General Assembly in resolution 47/214.

(c) United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Nomination of members of the Board of the Institute

The Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development is composed of 10 members who are nominated by the Commission for Social Development and confirmed by the Economic and Social Council for a term of four years, renewable once for a further two years, in accordance with Commission resolution 10 (XXV).

In decision 1991/228, the Economic and Social Council confirmed the nominations by the Commission for Social Development of five new members of the Board for a four-year term beginning on 1 July 1991. Five members will complete their first four-year term on 30 June 1993 and are eligible for one further term of two years.

In accordance with the terms of reference of the Institute, the Commission is thus to nominate, at its thirty-third session, five candidates, for a further two years for members eligible for renewal, or for a four-year term in the case of new members. The Council will be called upon to confirm those nominations in 1993.

Report of the Board of the Institute

In accordance with its terms of reference, the Board of the Institute submits to the Commission a report on the progress of its work. The report before the Commission covers the period 1991-1992.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on the draft proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (E/CN.5/1993/8)

Note by the Secretary-General on the nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (E/CN.5/1993/9)

7. World Summit for Social Development

The Economic and Social Council, by its decision 1991/230, taking into account the report of the Commission on its thirty-second session (E/1991/26, chap. I, sect. C), requested the Secretary-General to carry out consultations with all States Members of the United Nations on the possibility of convening a world summit for social development.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 46/139, welcomed Council decision 1991/230, as well as the decision of the Secretary-General to appoint a special representative to carry out the consultations on his behalf. The Assembly called upon the Council, after considering the report of the Secretary-General requested by Council decision 1991/230, to make an appropriate recommendation to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session. Subsequently, by its resolution 1992/27, the Council recommended that the Assembly convene a world summit for social development, at the level of head of State or Government, to be held in early 1995.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 47/92, inter alia, decided to convene a World Summit for Social Development, at the level of head of State or Government to be held in early 1995, decided to establish a Preparatory Committee open to the participation of all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly, and recommended that the Commission for Social Development give consideration to the agenda of the World Summit at its thirty-third session, in 1993, and to the question of holding an extraordinary session dedicated solely to the question of the Summit before the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee in 1994.

8. Provisional agenda for the thirty-fourth session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its thirty-fourth session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted for its consideration.

Documentation

Draft provisional agenda for the thirty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development

9. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-third session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission reports to the Council on the work of each session.